

CITY OF SAMMAMISH

# 2012

PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE PLAN



**CITY OF SAMMAMISH  
WASHINGTON  
ORDINANCE NO. O2012-325**

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**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SAMMAMISH WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE  
2012 PARK RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE (PRO) PLAN**

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the City's Initial PRO Plan in December 2004 as part of Parks Element in the City's Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the PRO Plan is part of the city's adopted Comprehensive Plan, Appendix C; and

WHEREAS, the PRO Plan, contains an updated parks inventory, retains the valuation-based primary level of service standard, provides updated goals and objectives and an updated capital improvement plan (CIP) as required to meet RCW 36.70.070; and

WHEREAS, an environmental review of the Comprehensive Plan amendment was conducted in accordance with the requirement of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and a non-project SEPA Determination of Non-significance was issued on April 17, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the public process for the proposed amendment provided for early and continuous public participation opportunities including ten public open house meetings in 2010, a public survey in July 2010, two public hearings before the Planning Commission on October 6 and 20 2011, public meeting conducted by the City Council on March 12, 2012 and public hearings before the City Council on May 1 and 14 2012; and

WHEREAS, the PRO Plan was created to maintain state grant eligibility from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office and guides department operations; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission recommended adoption of the PRO Plan to the City Council on March 19, 2012; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Adoption of PRO Plan. The Sammamish City Council hereby adopts the 2012 Sammamish PRO Plan.

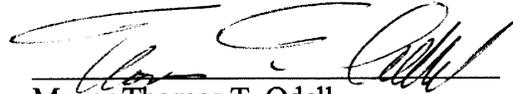
Section 2. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be published in the official newspaper of the City, and shall take effect and be in full force five (5) days after the date of publication.

Section 3. Severability. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or

otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this Resolution be pre-empted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or pre-emption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances.

**ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A SPECIAL MEETING THEREOF ON THE 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2012**

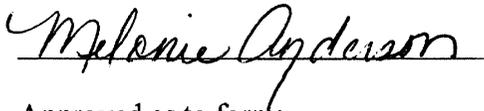
CITY OF SAMMAMISH



Mayor Thomas T. Odell

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:

Melonie Anderson, City Clerk



Approved as to form:



Bruce L. Disend, City Attorney

Filed with the City Clerk:	April 24, 2012
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# Acknowledgements



We would like to thank the many citizens, staff, and community groups who contributed their time, expertise and interest to help develop this plan update.

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Krist Morritt  
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# Executive Summary



## Purpose

The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, also known as the PRO Plan, serves as a high-level planning document to help guide Sammamish into our second decade of cityhood. The plan outlines goals and policies that recognize the challenging economic times while also providing for strategic growth, development and improvement of the parks and recreation system. The PRO Plan is part of the city's overall Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the guidelines established by the Growth Management Act (GMA). The PRO Plan must be updated every six years for the City to retain eligibility for state grants through the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers 12 grant programs.

Groundwork for the PRO Plan began with an inventory of the park system, including land, facilities and programs. Current conditions were summarized for each park, trail, open space area and facility. A list of department programs and events was also compiled. The City sought feedback from a wide range of Sammamish residents regarding their needs, preferences, attitudes, and vision for parks and recreation. Several formats for public participation were offered, including public and school meetings, an informal Web survey, a statistical survey, a Web comment form, and open meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council.

A steering committee was established to oversee the PRO Plan update. The committee included members from the Parks and Recreation, Planning, and Arts commissions. They provided guidance to staff and recommendations to the City Council on the contents of the plan. In addition, members reported back to their respective commissions on the progress of the PRO Plan update.

Since the very first Sammamish PRO Plan was adopted in 2004, the Parks and Recreation Department has accomplished a number of the original objectives and has made progress toward many others. A comprehensive list of accomplishments can be found in Appendix B.





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## Community Profile

Once a rural part of King County, the City of Sammamish quickly grew in population after its incorporation in August 1999. Despite considerable development and growth, Sammamish remains a blend of both urban and rural characteristics. The median age of Sammamish residents was 37.6 in 2010 and over half (51.9 percent) of the households are married couples with children. Sammamish is a young community, with one-third of its population under the age of 19. It is predominately Caucasian with the fifth-largest median income level in the state of Washington.

## Park System

The City of Sammamish implemented the park system at incorporation, when several parks were transferred from King County to the City. Since that time, the park system has grown from 44 acres to 490 acres.

The Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department includes 10 full-time staff members, two interns, four part-time facility staff, and 12 summer lifeguards. The City is now the single-largest provider of parks and recreation services in Sammamish. These services include administration, planning and development, wellness, culture and arts, recreation programming, park and facility maintenance, and volunteer services.

The Parks Maintenance and Operations Division (Parks M & O) is responsible for maintaining the park system. This division shares resources with the Public Works Division. The Parks M&O team includes five full-time staff members in addition to a parks resource coordinator. Approximately 13 seasonal positions are filled in 4-month and 9-month durations, which are staggered throughout the year.

The Sammamish Parks and Recreation Department uses the adopted park classification system when planning new parks. This system encompasses different types of parks, open space areas, and facilities all designed to provide diverse recreational experiences. The park classifications include community park, neighborhood park, mini park, special use park, school/city partnership park, open space/natural area, and trails.



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The parks level of service (LOS) provides a benchmark or measure to help determine how many parks and what kinds of parks are needed to meet the needs of the Sammamish community. The Sammamish Parks LOS measures the overall park investment per person (valuation based model), which is further described in Chapter 3. This model allows the City to be flexible and responsive to changing needs and priorities instead of adhering to arbitrary ratios for each type of park facility. This calculation also serves as the basis for the park impact fee rate. Revenue from the impact fee is used to fund parks capital projects including public facilities, land acquisition, site improvements, new park construction and park renovations.

While the valuation based model is intended to serve as a guideline for funding parks and recreation facilities, it is not intended to be a stand-alone measure of service needs. Many other variables may be considered when determining the appropriate level of investment in the parks system. Completing a secondary LOS analysis is identified as a priority for the next plan update. Additional analysis may include an analysis of community demand and needs, anticipation of future growth, population density, availability of non-city parks and open spaces, and maintenance and operating costs.

## **Athletic Fields**

Twenty athletic leagues were identified as regular users of the Sammamish athletic fields. The City of Sammamish has an inventory of eleven sports fields within five athletic facilities managed by the Parks Department. In addition to the City of Sammamish athletic fields, leagues utilize other fields inside and outside of Sammamish city limits to meet their needs. There are 67 non-city-owned fields at 25 locations serving a variety of sports within the city and one mile beyond city limits.

The demand for field use has increased due to the growth of participation in youth sports and the introduction of select programs that practice year-round. To add to the complexity of managing athletic fields, every sport requires a different field configuration, and age groups within the sport often require a different field size.





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Analysis of existing field use shows availability year-round on weekdays at the Beaver Lake Park fields and availability on weekends at all fields during the months of August, September, and October. Improvements to operations and scheduling practices, as well as the construction of new fields and the continued improvement of existing fields, are the solution to providing greater field capacity in the future.

## Facilities

Facilities examined in this section include indoor recreation amenities as well as park pavilions and shelters. Although Sammamish has been a city for only a short time, there are several indoor recreation facilities available to the public and a number of park pavilions and shelters. Many indoor facilities and shelters were part of existing King County parks or were built for other purposes before the land became a park. The Beaver Lake Lodge is one example. Since the city's incorporation, other parks have been established and additional facilities added. Through a partnership with the Redmond/Sammamish Boys & Girls Club, the City is a partner in a brand-new recreation center primarily for young adults. However, major indoor recreation facilities are still lacking for a city with the population base of Sammamish.

In the past, most recreation in public spaces took place outdoors. Now more communities are in need of indoor recreation space. This is particularly true in Sammamish where summers are short and weather is unpredictable year round. Growth in youth sports and high demand for school gyms have left most communities needing gym space. As the number of households led by single parents or two working parents increases, so does the need for youth programming. Senior citizens are the fastest-growing segment of society and desire indoor walking tracks, exercise areas, pools, and classroom space.

Although there are no established national levels of service for indoor recreation facilities, some communities are adopting basic guidelines for square footage per person. The average is 1 to 3 square feet for general indoor recreation amenities. The trend in the last five years is an increase in square foot range as the demand for and popularity of indoor recreation facilities rise.



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The City of Sammamish has 11 picnic shelters and one pavilion in its current park inventory. In its fee schedule, the City classifies its shelters into Tier 1 and Tier 2 facilities, based on popularity rather than size. Small shelters are not rented and are available on a first-come first-served basis. Picnic shelter reservations are scheduled from March through September. As with indoor recreation facilities, there are no established levels of service for park pavilions or shelters. However, future shelters and pavilions should follow the development guidelines set forth in chapter 5 for each park classification.

## Recreation

Recreation programming takes on many forms: adventure, aquatics, cultural arts, educational/instructional classes, environmental, health and wellness, special events, and specialized recreation for individuals with disabilities or other special needs. When the City incorporated in 1999, public recreation programs were provided primarily by the cities of Redmond and Issaquah. Local nonprofits, service clubs, private organizations and churches also provided programming. Today these providers continue to deliver opportunities for recreation, along with the City of Sammamish. The city's major role in recreation programming is the production of large community special events. The City hosts a concert and performance series and also manages signature events such as the Fourth on the Plateau and Sammamish Days.

As the City of Sammamish contemplates the future of recreation, including the possibility of a new community and aquatic center, early results from community outreach indicate a strong desire for additional recreation programs in Sammamish.

## Cultural Arts

Arts and culture play a vital role in the Sammamish community by encouraging creativity, challenging us to see the world through different eyes, providing a connection to the past, and celebrating and honoring the diversity of the community. The Sammamish Arts Commission (SAC), formed in 2003, serves as an advisory body to the City Council on matters related to arts and culture in the city. In addition to installing art in public parks, promoting performances and readings, and offering classes and educational experiences, the





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SAC procured a rotating art exhibit at City Hall which displays local, regional, and national artists throughout the building.

There are a number of benefits to arts, culture and heritage programs and opportunities in the community. Some of these benefits include economic vitality, health and wellness, improved learning, and intrinsic value. Respondents to the 2010 PRO Plan phone survey indicated Sammamish residents would like more music performances, with theater arts and visual arts the second and third priority respectively.

## Volunteers and Partnerships

Residents were actively involved in the community long before Sammamish became a city. Their ongoing dedication has been evident in tireless work on issues such as incorporation and in generous giving of time for sports, school programs, and local politics. Since incorporation, the City has built upon this foundation by establishing a formal volunteer program and partnering with a number of community groups to continue the tradition of grass-roots community service.

The City of Sammamish has developed partnerships with several organizations that complement existing programs. Partnerships with the school districts include National Honor Society, Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), environmental clubs and classrooms. The City also partners with many nonprofits, including Kiwanis, Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce, as well as numerous faith-based organizations.



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## Implementation

Specific projects are identified through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a six-year planning document that is re-evaluated every two years as part of the city's biennial budget process. It identifies specific projects, funding sources, and project timelines over a six-year period. The projects include parks-related acquisition, repair, renovation, replacement, and development. Planning-level cost estimates are developed for each project. Since costs fluctuate over time and the estimates are preliminary, contingency funds are allocated within the CIP. Funding for the parks CIP is primarily derived from the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) and park impact fees.

